

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DLOS-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12

NEA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 EB-08 OES-07 /157 W

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R 260900Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5876

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 YAOUNDE 3114

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORC, SHUM, PLOS, UNGA, CM

SUBJ: PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS WITH CAMEROON

REF: STATE 135985

1. ON JUNE 22 DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DALLEY AND DR. HOLLOWAY, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS, MET FIRST WITH FONMIN JEAN KEUTCHA AND LATER IN WORKING SESSION WITH GROUP OF 13 OFFICIALS FROM MOFA. CAMEROONIAN OFFICIALS WERE LED BY SECRETARY-GENERAL JOSEPH OWONO AND BY CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE PAUL ENGO, WHO HAS PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOS AND IS CHAIRMAN OF FIRST COMMITTEE. AMONG OTHERS PRESENT WERE DIRECTORS OF AFRICAN-ASIAN AFFAIRS, EUROPEAN-AMERICAN AND OCEANIC AFFAIRS, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA WAS OF BRIEF DURATION AND MAINLY MARKED BY MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES. IN RESPONSE TO DALLEY'S QUESTION, KEUTCHA ONCE AGAIN STATED THAT CAMEROON OPPOSED INTERVENTIONISM IN AFRICA BUT ALLOWED THAT A PARTICULAR STATE, WHEN IN NEED HAD THE RIGHT TO CALL FOR AND ACCEPT EXTERNAL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE ADDED THAT CAMEROON WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DURATION OF ASSISTANCE (I.E., MILITARY PRESENCE), PARTICULARLY THE POSSIBILITY IT MIGHT DEVELOP INTO QUOTE PERMANENT
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OCCUPATION UNQUOTE. WITH REGARD TO GURC POSITION ON THE POSSIBLE CREATION BY THE OAU OF AN INTER-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE, KEUTCHA DEMURRED, INDICATING THAT ONLY PRESIDENT AHIDJO COULD AUTHORITATIVELY DISCUSS THIS QUESTION FOR CAMEROON. HE ADDED THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD CERTAINLY BE ADDRESSED BY CHIEFS OF STATE AT KHARTOUM.

3. DURING MEETING WITH MOFA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS RESPECTIVE

POSITIONS ON VARIOUS ISSUES, SECRETARY-GENERAL OWONO CHAIRED THE MEETING AND DID ALL THE TALKING EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL REMARKS BY CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE PAUL ENGO AND HENRY FOSSUNG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE COVERED:

4. HUMAN RIGHTS. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION BY DALLEY, OWONO STATED THAT IN GENERAL CAMEROON IS IMPRESSED WITH U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES AND FINDS THEM CONSTRUCTIVE. CAMEROON'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS IS PRODUCT OF THE AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CAMEROON RESERVES ITS POSITION ON CREATION OF OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BECAUSE IT STILL WONDERS WHETHER SUCH AN OFFICIAL WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. OWONO DOUBTS THAT SOUTH AFRICA OR RHODESIA WOULD GRANT A COMMISSIONER ENTRY AND FREE ACCESS. HE NEVERTHELESS CONCEDED THAT SUCH AN OFFICE ACTING AS A COORDINATING POINT WOULD PERHAPS BE OF ADMINISTRATIVE VALUE. STILL, CAMEROONIAN RESERVATION ON CREATION OF THE OFFICE IS FUNCTION OF GURC BELIEF THAT IT WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN REALIZING BLACK AFRICAN GOALS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ON THE NIGERIAN PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION S, OWONO STATED THAT CAMEROON WAS CONCERNED THAT SUCH REGIONAL BODIES, IF NOT EFFECTIVE, WOULD WEAKEN THE POSITION OF THE PRESENT OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IN RESPONSE, DALLEY HOPED THAT CAMEROON WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCES ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE THIS SUMMER IN BUTARE, RWANDA AND
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DAKAR. EITHER INADVERTENTLY OR THROUGH DESIGN, OWONO DID NOT COMMENT ON U.S. DECISION TO ABSENT ITSELF FROM GENEVA MEETING IN AUGUST ON DECADE ON RACISM.

5. SOUTHERN AFRICA. ALTHOUGH DR. HOLLOWAY'S REMARKS TOUCHED ON BOTH ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA, OWONO CONCENTRATED ON THE FORMER. HE SAID THAT CAMEROON, PRIMARILY AS A RESULT OF ROWLANDS'S VISIT OF LAST OCTOBER, HAD RELUCTANTLY DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS BEST MEANS OF QUOTE CATCHING UP WITH SMITH QUNQUOTE. THE GURC BELIEVES THAT ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE THE BAR
E
MINIMUM. IN FACT, GURC IS VERY CLOSE TO ADVOCATING A SOLUTION THROUGH FORCE OF ARMS BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD GO BEYOND THE POSITION OF THE FRONT LINE STATES. CAMEROON IS CONVINCED THAT IAN SMITH IS SUFFICIENTLY CLEVER AND ELUSIVE TO DELAY PROCEEDINGS SOMEHOW AND THEREBY PERPETUATE HIS REGIME. USING 1976 MIDDLE EAST WAR AS ANALOGY, OWONO BELIEVES THAT SOLUTION CAN BE ARRIVED AT ONLY WHEN U.S. AND SOVIET UNION RECOGNIZE INTERESTS IN ZIMBABWE AND IMPOSE A SETTLEMENT.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5877

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 YAOUNDE 3114

OWONO SURMISES SOME STATES WILL ARGUE AGAINST THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AT KHARTOUM, BUT THE QUOTE WISE ONES UNQUOTE INCLUDING CAMEROON WILL SUPPORT THEM, CAUTIOUSLY TAKING WAIT-AND-SEE POSITION.

6. MIDDLE EAST. OWONO SAID GURC ADMIRES U.S. EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE POINTED TO RECENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF ARMS PACKAGE AS PERHAPS INDICATOR OF NEW U.S. WILLINGNESS TO TAKE UNBIASED POSITION IN MIDDLE EAST, EVEN IN FACE OF POWERFUL JEWISH LOBBY. IN SAME BREATH, OWONO COMPLIMENTED U.S. FOR QUOTE HUMANITARIAN UNQUOTE EFFORTS IN NOT ALLOWING ISRAEL TO BE QUOTE DROWNED BY SEA OF ARABS UNQUOTE. HE FEELS NEVERTHELESS THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR CAMEROON TO TAKE A MODERATE POSITION IN UN IN FACE OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE WITH REGARD OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. OWONO MADE PLEA FOR U.S. TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON BEGIN, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SADAT'S INITIATIVES. DALLEY THEN CAUTIONED THAT CAMEROON SHOULD NOT BELIEVE THAT JEWISH LOBBY IS ONLY SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL; ISRAEL ENJOYS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN THE U.S. ENGO THEN INQUIRED AS TO WHAT DOES MODERATE MEAN, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. DALLEY RESPONDED BY STATING THAT THERE WAS GROWING USG AWARENESS THAT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY SETTLEMENT.

7. PUERTO RICO. OWONO STATED THAT CAMEROON WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
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US ON THIS ISSUE, PROVIDED US POSITION IS BASED ON WILL OF
PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. HE ADVISED US TO MAKE KNOWN RESULTS OF

PLEBISCITES HELD IN PUERTO RICE. HE FELT THAT WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY COULD AID OUR CAUSE IN WORLD FORA.

8. UN FINANCING AND RESTRUCTURING. IN RESPONSE TO HOLLOWAY REVIEW OF THIS ISSUE, OWONO SAID THAT PEACEKEEPING AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF UN MUST BE TAKEN TOGETHER. HE DOUBTED THAT PROPOSAL FOR READY MILITARY UNITS IN COUNTRIES TO BE AT DISPOSAL OF UN WOULD HAVE MUCH APPEAL TO THIRD WORLD. HE CITED AS REASON EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING UNITS TO POOR COUNTRIES. WITH CONSIDERABLE PRIDE HE COMMENTED THAT CAMEROON WAS SELDOM BEHIND IN ITS PAYMENTS AND SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED REQUESTS FOR UPWARD REVISIONS OF CAMEROON ASSESSMENTS. ON RESTRUCTURING OF ECOSOC, OWONO STATED THAT CAMEROON ALSO WELCOMED CHOICE OF KENNETH DADZIE, AUOTE A GREAT AFRICAN DIPLOMAT UNQUOTE AS THE NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THAT HE BELIEVED THAT CAMEROONIAN GENERAL APPROACH IN THIS AREA WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE U.S. HE THEN STATED THAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION NDMA NJOYA WOULD SURELY HAVE MORE TO SAY ON RESTRUCTURING OF ECOSOC. IN RESPONSE TO DALLEY'S EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR CAMEROON'S WILLINGNESS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN CHANGING THE CLIMATE IN THE ILO TO PERMIT U.S. TO RETURN TO THE ORGANIZATION, OWONO SAID THAT CAMEROON WAS DISAPPOINTED AT U. S. DECISION TO WITHDRAW BUT RESPECTED U.S. RIGHT TO DO SO. DALLEY THEN BRIEFED GROUP ON CURRENT U.S. POSITION RE RESUMPTION OF ILO MEMBERSHIP.

9. OWONO RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE MADE A PLEA FOR COOPERATION AS BEING IN THE SELF-INTEREST OF THE NORTH. HE ARGUED THAT TO THE EXTENT THE THIRD WORLD ACHIEVES ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE WEALTHY NATIONS WILL BENEFIT FROM AN EXPANSION IN EXPORTS. HE DISMISSED DEBT RESCHEDULING AS BEING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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LITTLE INTEREST TO CAMEROON WHICH PAYS ITS DEBTS PROMPTLY. WHAT INTERESTS CAMEROON IS A COMMON FUND TO STABILIZE COMMODITY PRICES.

10. DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HENRY FOSSUNG STATED THAT HE DETECTED A CONNECTION BETWEEN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND LOS. HE WAS QUOTE DISMAYED UNQUOTE BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON REMARK DURING MAY 22 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT USG WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TO EXCLUDE TRANSFER OF DEEP SEA TECHNOLOGY FROM NEXT LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. ENGO EXPANDED ON THIS POINT BY STATING THAT IT WOULD BE QUOTE UNFORTUNATE UNQUOTE IF THIRD WORLD SHARE ONLY IN FRUITS OF EXPLOITATION OF DEEP SEA RESOURCES BUT NOT TECHNOLOGY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE US COULD BEGIN TRAINING PROGRAMS NOW FOR LDC'S TO ENSURE THEY OBTAIN FULL BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, E.G., MARINE TECHNOLOGY. DALLEY RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NOT YET A POLITICAL CONSENSUS IN CONGRESS OR US PRIVATE SECTOR FOR ENGO'S VIEW OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. AMBASSADOR SMYTHE ADDED THAT

US HAS LONG ENCOURAGED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAMS. IN US MUCH OF TECHNOLOGY LIES IN PRIVATE DOMAIN AND THE USG SIMPLY NOT FREE TO DISPOSE OF IT AS IT WISHES. INDEED SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD DISCOURAGE PRIVATE R & D IN THE US. DALLEY PROMISED TO CONVEY ENGO'S VIEWS TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON.

11. COMMENT: DISCUSSIONS WERE BOTH CORDIAL AND FRANK. CAMEROONIANS HAD OBVIOUSLY PREPARED FOR THE OCCASION AND VALUED OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS.
SMYTHE

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